



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Patent Application of:

WATANABE, et al. : Group Art Unit: 1752

Application No. 10/759,199 : Examiner: John S. Chu

Filed: January 20, 2004 :

For: PLANOGRAPHIC PRINTING PLATE PRECURSOR

DECLARATION UNDER 37 C.F.R. §1.132

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

I, Kotaro Watanabe, do declare and state as follows:

I graduated with a Master's Degree from Kyoto University,
Faculty of Science, Department of Chemistry in March 2002;

I joined Fuji Photo Film Co., Ltd. in April 2002, and
since then until present I have been working at Synthetic Organic
Chemistry Laboratory of the company and have been engaged in
the research and development in the field of planographic
printing plate precursors;

I am a co-inventor of the subject matter disclosed and
claimed in the above-identified application; and

I am familiar with the Office Action of October 19, 2005,
and understand the Examiner's rejection therein.

The following additional comparative experiments were
carried out by me or under my supervision in order to make
the advantages of the subject matter more clear.

EXPERIMENT

Planographic printing plate precursor of additional

Comparative Examples 2 to 5 were prepared in the same manner as in Example 1 described in the specification of the present invention, except that the comparative novolak resins shown in the following Table A were used in place of the specific novolak resin used in Example 1

Obtained planographic printing plate precursors of Comparative Examples 2 to 5 were processed and evaluated in the same manner as in Example 1 described in the specification of the present invention.

The results of Comparative Examples 2 to 5 obtained are listed in following Table 1 with those of Example 1 to 7 and Comparative Example 1 which are listed in the specification of the present invention.



Table 1

| | Support | Novolak Resin | | Development latitude (mS/cm) | | Sensitivity (W) | | Printing durability (in 10,000 sheets) | Chemical resistance (x 10,000 sheets) |
|-----------------------|---------|---|---------------------------------|------------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|--|---------------------------------------|
| | | Componential ratio (phenol/m-cresol/p-cresol) | Weight average molecular weight | Developing solution A | Developing solution B | Developing solution A | Developing solution B | | |
| Example 1 | A | 70/30/0 | 6500 | 6 | 7 | 5 | 5 | 22 | 20 |
| Example 2 | B | 70/30/0 | 6500 | 5 | 6 | 5 | 5.5 | 22 | 21 |
| Example 3 | C | 70/30/0 | 6500 | 6 | 6 | 5 | 5 | 25 | 22 |
| Example 4 | D | 70/30/0 | 6500 | 6 | 6 | 5.5 | 5 | 23 | 20 |
| Example 5 | D | 20/40/40 | 5000 | 6 | 6 | 5.5 | 5.5 | 25 | 22 |
| Example 6 | A | 50/30/20 | 5500 | 6 | 6 | 5.5 | 6 | 21 | 19 |
| Example 7 | A | 50/40/10 | 5500 | 6 | 6 | 5.5 | 6 | 22 | 19 |
| Comparative Example 1 | A | 0/50/50 | 4500 | 4 | 4 | 6.5 | 6.5 | 20 | 15 |
| Comparative Example 2 | A | 0/80/20 | 6500 | 4 | 4 | 6.5 | 6.5 | 20 | 16 |
| Comparative Example 3 | A | 70/0/30 | 6500 | 5 | 5.5 | 6 | 6 | 21 | 18 |
| Comparative Example 4 | A | 0/80/20 | 14000 | 3.5 | 4 | 7 | 6.5 | 21 | 16 |
| Comparative Example 5 | A | 0/30/70 | 5000 | 4 | 4 | 7 | 7 | 21 | 17 |

As shown in Table 1, the planographic printing plate precursors of the invention were able to record at a higher sensitivity and were more excellent in development latitude, printing durability and chemical resistance in comparison with Comparative Example 1 to 4 in which novolak resins containing no phenol or m-cresol in an amount of less than 10% by mole as structural units were used.

Further, it was found that the planographic printing plate precursors of Comparative Examples 2 to 5, in which novolak resins having an equal or higher molecular weight than the invention were used, exhibited inferior sensitivity, printing durability and chemical resistance.

I further declare that all statements made herein of my own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true, and further, that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application or any patent issued thereon.

DATE: March 10, 2006

Kotaro Watanabe

KOTARO WATANABE